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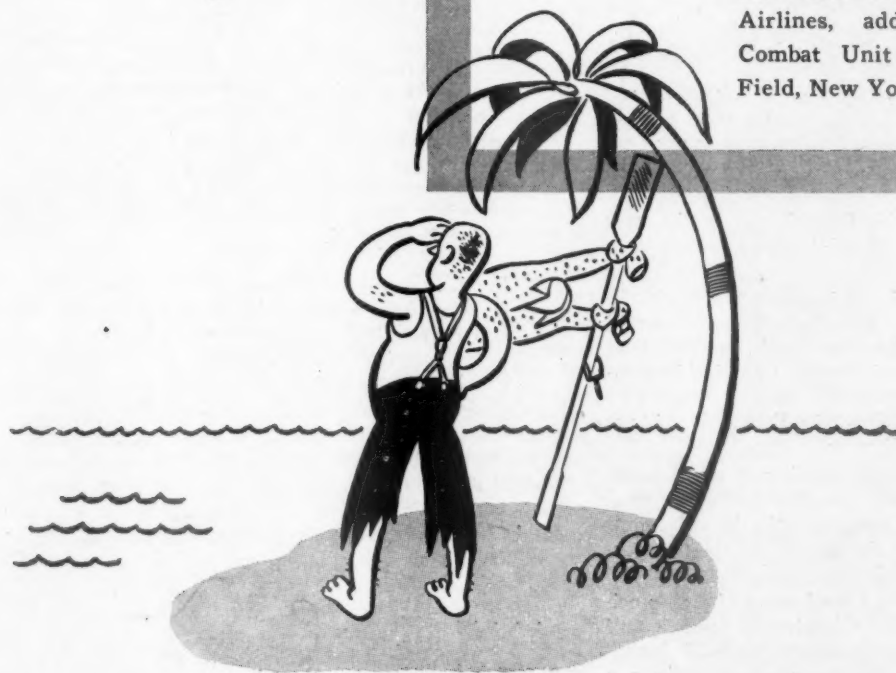
VOL. 3

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NO. 16



"There is no reason for you American pilots ever to develop the slightest tinge of a feeling of inferiority, either in your capacity to fight, or in the capacity of your planes to fly. Man for man and plane for plane, Uncle Sam has the greatest aerial fighting machines in the world today."—Col. EDW. RICKENBACKER, Ace of World War I, and President of Eastern Airlines, addressing the Combat Unit at Mitchell Field, New York.



For those who will not be *Mentally Marooned*

WORLD WEEK

Gen. Hershey's forecast of an army of 9 million or 10 million men poses an interesting problem. It often has been said that for every man in the armed forces there must be from 14 to 18 supporting workers in industry. Now, subtract 10 million from our population of approx. 132 million; make due allowances for the minors, the aged, the infirm and afflicted. It is clear, then, that if we enrolled every remaining able-bodied man and woman in industry (a manifest impossibility) we could not meet half the prescribed ratio.

Obviously, either the popularly accepted ratio is out of kilter, or the General indulges a fantasy. Almost certainly, the ratio is exaggerated—grossly exaggerated in the case of this nation with its superior mass production techniques.

An army of 10 million men for the U. S., represents, roughly, seven and one-half per cent of total population. It may be marked in passing that both England and Germany are said to have this percentage or more of their manpower under arms. But this doesn't prove the practicability of the ratio. Germany had great stores of materiel cached against *Der Tag*, has since been advantaged by slave labor of occupied countries. England has made no pretense of self-sufficiency. She has drawn heavily upon the labor and wares of the Dominions and U. S. The U. S., on the contrary, must not only supply its own forces but continue, presumably, its role as "the arsenal of democracy."

Transportation is another factor to be reckoned with. In this heavily mechanized age, we require 18 to 20 tons of equipment for each soldier sent abroad. This is for the initial effort, and takes no account of subsequent supply problems.

Our net opinion: The U. S. will not, in the near future, induct an army of 10 million men.

FRANCE: The rise of Laval is an evil portent. Nothing can be gained by glossing over the ugly fact. It would seem now that Vichy's African ports and strategic island possessions are subject to Hitler's will. Conceivably, remnants of the French army may supplement Rommel's Libyan forces. Future disposition of the French fleet is not a pleasant prospect to dwell upon.

We have said before that Petain is not pro-German, nor pro-British. He is violently pro-French. Terrific pressure was upon him. Hitler used probably the only argument that could have moved the aged Marshal—the specter of literal starvation stalking his loved lands.

You have read, and will read much more of the French island of Madagascar, in the Indian Ocean, some 200 mi off the East coast of Africa. On the strength of information which we trust implicitly, we reported weeks ago that this vital submarine base is already under Axis control.

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prophecies . . .

FRANCE: Violence and revolt on an unprecedented scale clearly indicated by developments. French people are in no temper to tolerate Laval.

On May 3, 1941, we forecast the assassination of Laval. An attempt upon his life was made the following Aug. 27th. At least two subsequent unreported attempts have been made. We would not consider him, at the moment, a prime insurance risk.

SABOTEUR & SPY HUNT: Anticipate accelerated efforts by FBI, including increasing raids on homes of enemy aliens in principal industrial areas.

U. S. BOMBING: It will come this Spring or early Summer. Where? How? You guess!

INDIA: This seething land is ripe for conquest, but we doubt that Japan can or will try to subjugate it completely before the coming rainy season. We anticipate continuing efforts to take Ceylon, now that British air resistance has been broken. Subsequently, or at about the same time, Japan will doubtless attack Indian ports, especially Calcutta, which is now the principal landing point for Chinese supplies. If Japan takes Calcutta, and at the same time shuts off from China her last abundant source of oil in Burma, Chiang Kai-shek's fighting forces will be doubly crippled.

. . . — You grow weary of conflicting stories on rubber. Pessimistic forecasts are safest, soundest. If and when production gets to 700,000 tons annually, all will be needed for war. Our stockpile may be exhausted by Fall. Further plant facilities for synthetics unlikely. No steel.

RUSSIA: It's difficult to avoid emotional influence; wishful thinking. Bare facts: Russia fights magnificently, but is weaker, in relation to Germany, than she was last June. We must study statistics as well as headlines. Our attitude remains one of tempered optimism.

. . . — Pres. Roosevelt's suggestion: The Survival War. What's yours?

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Publisher.

Quote

"He Who Never Quotes, is Never Quoted"—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"This is not opportunity knocking at our door—it is history battering it down."—*London Weekly Tribune.*

"In all the piece-meal measures that have been tried, not once has the President offered labor a real share in the gov't. This must ultimately be done for the effective conduct of the war and for the peace to follow."—WENDELL WILLKIE, *Look.*

"We are setting ourselves to build a world where little children everywhere can sing themselves to sleep."—Dr. PAUL CALVIN PAYNE, General Sec'y, Presbyterian Board of Christian Education.

"I don't want to bite the enemy, I want to shoot him."—JAMES DONOVAN, Cleveland, Ohio, in a letter to Pres. Roosevelt protesting against being turned down because of two missing teeth.

"The first thing every woman who wants to help should do is to have a physical examination by her physician."—ALICE MARBLE, assistant director, Division of Physical Fitness, OCD.

"But I'm doing my best to get off relief. I never miss Bank Nite."—Chicago client to her social service case worker.

"We can't hope to develop much new talent. The cream of the sprout-crop will be in the Army or the Navy. But that won't make much difference, because, if the war continues long, we couldn't use a young man anyway. He'd just be hissed off the screen."—GREGORY LA CAVA, motion picture director, commenting on shortage of leading men.

"May we
Quote
you on that?"

"I think the styles are going to be very much worse for women with long legs. Imagine me (5' 11") in a 27" skirt! I'd be locked up!"—Mrs. PAUL V. McNUTT, wife of the Federal Security Administrator.

"People should lose their needless fear of poison gas. Gas stays close to the ground and travels with the wind. You can go up to the second or third floor, even without a gas mask, and literally thumb your nose at it."—Maj. ARTHUR J. ROGERS, of the Chemical Warfare Service.

"This is a war of transportation. No matter what else we build, or how great the quantities, no matter how many men we train, no matter how many defense bonds we buy, or how heavy our taxes, we cannot win this war without ships, ships built in time."—Rear Admiral EMORY S. LAND, Chairman, Maritime Commission.

"The British people thought Churchill grand when he had his back to the wall. Now, they are beginning to think he is leaning against it. And they can't see how a war can be won that way."—ANEURIN BEAVAN, Laborite Member of Parliament.

"One of the great advantages of a co-educational institution is that it can serve as a matrimonial bureau."—Mrs. RUTH O. McCARN, Counselor to Women, Northwestern U.

"A lot of people feel they haven't had their money's worth unless they insult the storekeeper before they buy."—ZULA BENNINGTON GREENE, *Cap-per's Weekly.*

"I believe . . . we are fighting today because the boys in the last war lost touch with their communities and came back without the actual feeling of obligation to carry on their thinking."—ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, in a statement challenged by American Legion Commander LYNN U. STAMBAUGH, who said that if the foreign relations programs of the Legion had been followed "our enemies of today would not even have started this war."

"Some say that the best thing that could happen here (London) would be a renewal of bombing, and credit Herr Hitler with the shrewdest move of all in giving the British people nothing to complain about except the ineptitude of their own chosen leaders."—RAYMOND DANIELL, London Correspondent to *N. Y. Times.*

"I like the country, but I don't want to do anything about it. I don't want to dig in it, or race over it, or climb things on it—either trees or mountains."—CORNELIA OTIS SKINNER.

"Security! Who the hell wants to be an angleworm down so deep that nobody can get to him?"—JOHN H. MORSE, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Quote

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AMERICAN-BRITISH RELATIONS

When I returned from my first visit to America several years ago, a man asked me:

"Well, did you meet any gentlemen in America?"

That question symbolizes the attitude of many members of what we still call, for the sake of convenience rather than of accuracy, the governing classes. It is a good thing to include the teaching of American history in our schools; but a more pressing need is instruction for thousands of people over school age in the characteristics of the American people. Because the Americans speak our language they do not think our thoughts. The future peace and prosperity of the world depend largely upon mutual understanding between the English-speaking peoples. That understanding appears to be threatened by ignorance and arrogance on our part. —JOHN GLOAG, in letter to *The Spectator*, England, 2-27-42.

CONCEIT—Moderated

Extract from the letter of an ambitious young man to his wife:

"I have now been made a corporal, which is my first step up the Army's ladder of success. However, for the time being, do not move to a larger house or buy a piano, and you may speak to the neighbors as usual." —*Liberty*, 3-21-42.

CORRESPONDENCE—

Soldiers

Some people wait about writing till they've got big news. But anybody who was over there last time knows how we used to famish to hear the ordinary everyday things the folks generally didn't figure were worth passing on.

So, when we write, let's all remember that, rather than big news once a blue moon, the boy craves a lot of little homemade happenings and talk right along. It brings alive to him wherever he is the homes he's fighting for.—Sgt. ALVIN YORK, in his Syndicated Feature.

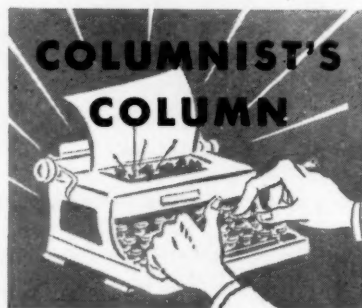
CRITICISM

A young playwright once brought his masterpiece to G. B. Shaw for an opinion. After listening to the first act, Shaw fell asleep. The young author was indignant.

"Mr. Shaw! Mr. Shaw!" he said sharply.

G. B. S. stirred.

"Uh-yes? What is it?" he asked.



Where Are We?

By Gen'l HUGH S. JOHNSON

Gen'l Johnson, who died in Washington this week, at the age of 59, wrote the draft bill of World War I, and was a colorful leader of the NRA. More recently, he had been a salty, caustic and forthright critic of administration policies. President Roosevelt, a year ago, refused to renew the General's commission, on the ground that he was not physically fit. We condense below the last column written by Gen'l Johnson.

These are tough times, and they are going to get tougher.

Bataan is gone—gone after forcing the Japs to gather 10 to 1 odds in men and hundreds to one in planes. Wainwright and his American and Filipino boys put up the kind of fight that makes you feel like cheering and crying at the same time. The fact that they lost detracts in no way from their glory. But we can't shut our eyes to the fact that they did lose. Our Pacific outposts are now Hawaii, Australia and the Aleutians.

We are PREPARING to fight a war and FIGHTING it at the same time. This means just one thing: We've got to take a licking until we are able to swing a few from the ankles ourselves.

We've got to produce as never before—against time.

We must maintain our outposts as long as possible, even if it means that the boys go down fighting—against time.

We are going to use that time to sweat out every last weapon we can.

We're going to raise and train and equip an army and transport it on a scale never before attempted.

We will live on bare subsistence, if necessary, to do this.

The time for all this sacrifice is *right now*. We are fighting a world-wide war, not a November congressional election!—Condensed from Gen'l Johnson's daily syndicated feature.

"May I remind you that I came here to get your comment?"

"My dear boy," yawned Shaw, "sleep is a comment."—*Milwaukee Journal*.

DEFENSE—Civilian

There are over 200,000 civil defense workers in London alone. They work with incredible bravery and efficiency. The following timetable, reported by a newspaperman, shows what a German bomb is up against when it drops in London. A bomb fell outside the journalist's flat, bursting the water main and setting fire to the gas main. This is what happened next:

In 15 seconds the first warden arrived.

In 35 seconds the first policeman arrived.

The Answer: War

"Why such impress of shipwrights, whose sore task

Does not divide the Sunday from the week;

What might be toward, that this sweaty haste

Doth make the night joint laborer with the day?"

—WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, (Marcellus), *Hamlet* Act I, Scene 1.

In 85 seconds a squad of troops arrived with sandbags.

In five minutes 40 seconds the first A. F. S. (Auxiliary Fire Service) trailer pumps arrived.

In 11 minutes 55 seconds the first ambulance arrived, to take two casualties (glass splinters) away.

In one hour 45 minutes the fire was out.

In two hours 55 minutes the road was reopened to traffic.

In six hours 30 minutes we had still not cleared up the glass and plaster from the floors of our flat.—HARVEY KLEMMER, *They'll Never Quit*, (Funk).

FOREIGN AFFAIRS—

Ignorance

Louis Fischer, author of *Men and Politics*, reports that of all the questions asked by his various lecture audiences, the most surprising was one from a little lady in a western city. "One thing I don't understand, Mr. Fischer," she said. "Several times during your lecture you mentioned the people of unoccupied France. I didn't know there were any people living in unoccupied France."—*Book-of-the-Month Club News*, 4-42.

GOD—Versus War

At one of the Lenten Services in Washington's Church of the Epiphany, quiet white-haired Rt. Rev. Granville Gaylord Bennett had just begun to address the audience when his words were interrupted by the shrill blast of an air raid warning siren being tested atop the Capitol Garage nearby. The Bishop paused. At the conclusion of the blast, he pointed slowly upward and said, in no more than a whisper: "Had we listened to the 'still, small voice of God,' we should not now have this to listen to."—*Pathfinder*, 4-4-'42.

HEALTH—Army Qualifications

Mere bodily fitness is not the real thing we need most. If we could only develop a few military naval geniuses it would be much better for national security. . . . A great many of the world's greatest officers would have been rejected by the draft boards:

Name	Reason for Rejection
George Washington	False Teeth
Bismarck	Overweight
Napoleon	Ulcer of the Stomach
U. S. Grant	Alcoholism
Julius Caesar	Epilepsy
Horatio Nelson	One Eye, One Arm
Kaiser Wilhelm	Withered Arm
Genghis Khan	Paranoia
Duke of Wellington	Underweight

—DR. LOGAN CLENDENING, "The State of the Nation's Health," *Nation's Business*, 3-4-'42.

INDEPENDENCE—Cost

Cornelia Otis Skinner insisted from her school days that she intended to be an actress. After a liberal education with dramatic coaching from her famous father, young Cornelia started the rounds of the producers, intent on making her own way. About this time, Otis Skinner hurried off a check to his wife with the note, "This is to defray the expenses of our daughter's earning her own living."—H. ALLEN SMITH, "Cornelia Otis Skinner," *Cosmopolitan*, 4-4-'42.

LUXURY

George Oppenheimer was invited for a week-end at the famous Hearst ranch in San Simeon, and his mother made him promise to render a prompt and detailed report of the goings-on. The morning after his arrival she received the following wire: "Two

Thirty-three years ago The Valor of Ignorance, a warning to his country written by a little American hunchback HOMER LEA, became a best-seller in Japan—was listed as required reading for all Japanese officers. Today (revived by the original publisher, Harper's, \$2.50) its accurate prediction of Japan's course of action in the Pacific is appalling. CLARE BOOTHE introduces the visionary and militant young author and tells his strange story which ended when a crippled body was buried in the uniform of a three-star Chinese General in which it had served to change the course of the Chinese Empire. HOMER LEA is no modern NOSTRADAMUS but a military strategist to whom the science of war was a source of endless fascination. The fact that what he wrote of our island possessions has been borne out, almost in detail, since December 7 lends even greater significance to the following excerpt:

While the seizure of Hawaii and the Philippines includes, by the mere fact of their possession, all other insular territories of this Republic (the United States,) as well as Alaska, and the naval supremacy of the Pacific, yet their occupancy is only incidental to Japan's main objective. In other words, the possession of the Pacific coast would have the same effect in establishing Japanese supremacy over these territories as would their direct seizure. As a game of chess is won

Look Out, America!

by position, so, in this approaching conflict, the king's square toward which Japan moves is the Pacific coast. . . .

The principal consideration that now concerns this Republic is the defense of the Pacific coast, for once it passes under the military sovereignty of Japan the Pacific and its possessions are not alone lost, but the fairest and richest portion of the Union. If Japan once gains control of Washington, Oregon and California, these states will not only be segregated from the rest of the Union by her armies, but by uninhabitable deserts that moat their eastern frontiers and mountains that rampart them. No number of men nor amount of treasure, can bring about their restoration. The defense, therefore, of the Pacific coast depends solely upon the power of the Republic to prevent Japan from gaining a foothold. To rely upon the untried hope of reconquering these coast states is but slothful procrastination of that evasion and national vanity so rampant in the Republic.

Primarily, the defense of the Pacific coast belongs to a navy. But so long as the necessary naval expansion of the Republic remains circumscribed by venality and ignorance, as well as public indifference, it is impossible to foresee the time when the Pacific coast will be defended by a navy powerful enough to prevent invasion by Japan.

things have happened to me here already that never happened to me before. My car was stopped by a camel and I fell downstairs in my own bedroom!"—BENNETT CERF, in his Column "Trade Winds," *The Saturday Review of Literature*, 3-28-'42.

Epitaph

Here it lies—
Still & cold,
ANOTHER
RUMOR
One day old.
—Scholastic, 4-4-'42.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

A dramatic little story that exemplifies French feeling about the Nazi occupation is told by some French refugees who recently arrived in this country. Mrs. Alphonse V. Roche, whose husband is French and a De Gaulle supporter, relates the story:

A year ago the Germans found Paris too tragic and dull a city and ordered the theaters to open. The head of the State Theaters finally opened the Comedie Francaise.

"Do not present a tragedy," ordered the Nazi official, and the director said a Moliere comedy would be given. The Nazi reserved the first five rows for Nazi officers, and departed.

On the opening night, the Germans arrived in full dress uniform, medals on their chests, and took their seats. The three blows on the stage were given and the big fire-proof curtain went up. On the stage stood the entire cast of actors—Les Societaires de la Comedie Francaise—and they were in mourning. They stared straight ahead for five minutes. The atmosphere grew tense after the gasps of anger and astonishment. Then the big fireproof curtains went down, and up again, the velvet curtains parted, and the play began.—JUNE PROVINES, *Chicago Sun*.

News of the New

AVIATION: New portable device for detecting planes approved by U. S. War Dep't. Sound of plane motor highly intensified. Thru special ear-phones, planes can be heard long before they are seen.

DEFENSE: Blackout bulbs are now offered as an alternative to light-resisting drapes. Bulb is heavily coated with black except for small orange disc at bottom, which provides enough light for safety, but is not visible from the air.

ERSATZ: Bread and milk may soon clothe as well as nourish us. Fibers made from milk (casein) have long been available. Now comes word of a new fibre fashioned from wheat gluten.

MEDICINE: Dr. E. C. Rosenow, Mayo Foundation, has recently announced revolutionary concept relating to cause of infantile paralysis. Disease, he believes, is caused by minute visible streptococcus germ, rather than invisible "virus" as commonly held. This opens way for anti-serum treatment and possible skin tests to detect insipient disease.

Much has been said of miraculous sulfonamides, but relatively little is known of a newly-developed agent, propylene glycol, in which these derivatives may be dissolved. This agent may be taken in large quantities, permitting more active concentration of the "sulfa" drug. It also is self-sterilizing.

American medicos are expressing much interest in technique developed by Dr. Geo. Madrid, Mexican physician, by which he is curing typhoid in 24 to 36 hours. Treatment consists of repeated intravenous injections of sulfanilamide, thiamine, chloride, ascorbic acid and niacin.

SURGERY: Ice anesthesia, revolutionary technique in surgery, permits amputation of injured or gangrenous extremities without shock or fading vitality, and with less likelihood of infection. Affected limb is cooled a few degrees above freezing. Further anesthetic unnecessary. First time whole living tissue substance anesthetized instead of nerves alone. Developed by N. Y. diabetic specialist; now being widely used.

PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer given to us as a model seems to have come through centuries of mumbling and confusion as the most perfect petition of all times.

One little boy prays, "Harold be thy name."

Another asks, "Give us this day our jelly bread."

A young saint on Long Island prays, "Lead us not into Penn Station."

Out of the mouth of a babe comes "Forgive us our Christmasses." Then she finishes with a flourish saying "Our Men."—MABEL J. CURTIS, *The Protestant Voice*, 3-27-'42.

Young Man's Fancy . . .

Moscow reports the following poem, translated, of course, from the German, was found on captured Nazi troops:

When in future, at our ease,
We can say just what we please;
When Gestapo men on bail
Once again are back in jail;
When the jury trying Hitler
Has retired and he feels littler,
Then in Berlin peace will reign
And we'll smile and sing again.

RATIONING

Nothing shows the fundamental importance of rationing in modern war better than the English experience. It was not the gov't which imposed rationing upon an unwilling British people; it was the British people who imposed rationing upon an unwilling gov't.—PETER DRUCKER, an English Economist.

SALESMANSHIP—Insurance

A life insurance agent boasted among his colleagues that he had more good prospects than he could call upon personally. He offered to provide the names and addresses of these excellent prospects to other agents on an arrangement by which he received a substantial share of the profits on any sales made.

A number of agents accepted the offer and it proved to be a profitable deal for all parties concerned. The agents who solicited the prospects gained a fair amount of business. The man who provided the names got his share.

—Until one day—when a shrewd agent discovered that these "excellent prospects" were simply names and addresses picked at random from the telephone directory.—*Life Insurance Selling*, 4-'42.



Those Thomas Hart Benton propaganda paintings, which are creating such a stir, were commissioned and paid for by Abbott Laboratories, one of the large pharmaceutical houses, and presented to the Gov't as a contribution to nat'l defense.

They're already discussing bonus plans for the new army. Several nat'l and sectional groups have passed resolutions calling for bonus to be paid each man as he is discharged, amount based on months of service.

U. S. Agriculture Dept. has been promised limited quantity of koksagyz seed for experiment. This is Russia's quick-growing dandelion, principal source of their synthetic rubber. "Plant seed in April; ride on rubber in October" is the claim. (Guayule shrub requires 4 yrs. to develop.) Experts say koksagyz will grow in 42 of our states.

We've been expecting this: Chicago youth suffered fractured ankle as the "victim" in a First Aid demonstration class. To top that, he received head injuries (possible concussion) when the well-meaning ladies lifted him into an ambulance!

WPB order prohibiting use of steel, iron, copper, zinc, lead for burial caskets and vaults has some morticians worried. Many burial insurance contracts stipulate use of metal caskets.

Many public library volumes, donated by too-generous contributors, are turning up in the Victory Book campaign. The practice is not encouraged.

Bureau of Entomology complains that legislators, in their eagerness to defeat the Japs, have neglected the Japanese beetle. Fund to combat the pest has been cut from \$382,275 to \$82,275 . . . Toledo doctor had a sweet revenge recently. Citizen needing a birth certificate to hold his job in defense industry turned to physician who brought him into the world in 1900. "Sure" said the Doc, "I'll sign the paper. But there's \$15 still due on your birth bill. You'll have to pay that first."

SPEECHES—Payment

Clarence Darrow, at a women's club in the West, had been delivering a lecture on ancient history, in the course of which he had touched upon the arts, customs, and achievements of the ancient Phoenicians. "Oh," said the portly and laudatory chairlady, when Mr. Darrow had run down, "how can we thank Mr. Darrow for the fascinating lecture he has given us tonight."

Darrow returned to the lectern and added the following *postscriptum*: "I entirely forgot to tell you that it was the Phoenicians who first invented money."—FRANK CROWNINSHIELD, "We Have with us this Evening," *Vogue*, 3-15-'42.

SUPERIORITY

Wars are won by 76-per-cent people defeating 75-per-cent people; by 88-per-cent armies crushing 87-per-cent armies; by 91-per-cent statesmen out-thinking 90-per-cent statesmen. So, when we get into a world war like today's and drag in everybody, we can be sure of winning only if we are 100-per-cent workers in all fields. By being 100 per cent, we can beat the 99-per-cent outfits.—WALTER B. PITKIN, "Why be Half a Person?" *Beauty & Health*, 5-'42.

WAR—Action

I'm fed up with singing plaintive songs—I want to sing battle songs. Don't tell me there'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover. To hell with bluebirds. Tell me there'll be vultures and a deathly silence over Berchtesgaden.

I'm bored with keeping a stiff upper lip—I want to develop a stiff uppercut. I'm tired of being made to feel sad. I want the experience—the purging, marshaling, driving experience—of being made to feel mad. Fighting mad!—WALT WEIR, *Printers' Ink*, 3-13-'42.

WAR—Progress in Pacific

Because of the continuing activities of our fleet in the Pacific, there is now no base in the Japanese mandated islands, nearer than the Carolines, where planes and subs can be serviced. This means a couple thousand miles more that Jap subs and planes must travel to reach the targets they were aiming at in our sector a month ago.

Repair of these harbors, fortresses and supply depots is not only heart-breakingly difficult for the Japanese but increasingly futile. It takes about

American Scene

Service Up-to-Date

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

Robert W. Service today did something he should have done in 1905, if he hadn't had a cold at the time: He recited his celebrated poem, "The Shooting of Dan McGrew."

Service is the author who died, according to the *London Times*, during the last World War. He was living in France at the time and writing novels. He read his own obituary one morning at breakfast.

"And they said such beautiful things about me," he reported, "that I never bothered to correct the story."

The *London Times* dispatch eventually reached print all around the world and to this day most people, when they think of the biographer of Dangerous Dan and the Lady who was known as Lou, believe him dead.

Service, now nearing 70, had to flee France in World War II with the German invasion. He came to Hollywood to spend the winter and hardly had he arrived before his old friend, Movie Producer Frank Lloyd, a fellow Scotchman, signed him up to be a movie actor.

Lloyd was making "The Spoilers" with Marlene Dietrich, Randolph Scott, John Wayne and others—and he thought it would be a fine idea for Service to recite the story of Dangerous Dan in the Yukon saloon on Universal Studio's Stage 20.

And that is exactly what Service did this afternoon, in a makeup (product of Jack Pierce) which made him look about 25 years old. Between takes, Service told about Dangerous Dan:

"I was a bank teller in the Yukon (Service said) and a buyer of gold dust, I used to recite Kipling for the boys in the bar. In the summer of 1901 they got up a stag smoker and I was on the committee. Instead of reciting Kipling, I thought I'd try my hand at a yarn of my own. I did 'The Shooting of Dan McGrew.' It came easily. I kind of liked it—but on the night of the party, I was at home in bed with a cold. I forgot about Dangerous Dan for two years."

In the meantime he'd spent the long Arctic evenings writing other poems, for the fun of it. There were "The Lady Known as Lou" and "The Cremation of Sam McGee" and several others.

"I was wasting too much time with poetry," Service continued. "So I bundled up all my poems and sent 'em to a publisher with a \$100 check to be printed into a book which I could pass around to my friends as a kind of memorial to my misguided literary youth. I would devote the rest of my life to being a banker. Only, the publisher came back with word that he'd prefer to publish my book on a royalty basis. I told him to go ahead."

That started something. Dangerous Dan and Sam and Lou and the other characters in Service's poems were an instantaneous publishing hit. The book sold in the thousands and the hundreds of thousands—and earned its author a fortune. It still is selling steadily and Service estimates that he has collected royalties on nearly 2,000,000 copies.—From Mr. Othman's United Press dispatch.

six months to fix up a dock for submarines and a set of cranes and machine shops and power plants, and you just about get them installed when some morning, at the crack of dawn, a string of gray ships is on the horizon—get your hats, here we go again.—ROBERT J. CASEY, with our Pacific Fleet, reporting in *Chicago News*.

WAR—Victory

The story goes that Sikorski stayed at Jerusalem on his way to Moscow and there talked to a Rabbi about

the war. The Rabbi held that the war might be won either by natural means or by a miracle. "And what are the natural means?" asked Sikorski. "Since our cause is just" said the Rabbi, "it would be natural to expect the intervention of Providence on our side." "Well," said Sikorski, "if Providential intervention is the natural way of achieving victory, how would it be won by miracle?" "Clearly," said the Rabbi, "it would be miraculous if we won it by ourselves and without Divine intervention."—*The New Statesman and Nation*, 2-21-'42.

GENS FROM Yesteryear

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes
By ANITA LOOS

When ANITA LOOS published her historic little volume in 1925 she added to the American vocabulary a colorful phrase of debatable accuracy. Of the millions who glibly borrowed the assertion in its heyday, comparatively few bothered to read the book—which was no great literary loss. It is the purported diary of a bewitching blonde yclept Lorelei, who, like her mythical namesake had a fondness for beds of ease. It is interesting to note that the book was titled, not by Miss Loos, but by the late Ray Long, of *Cosmopolitan*. Miss Loos, with her husband, John Emerson, authored many successful motion picture scenarios. She was born at Sisson, Calif., in 1893.

March 16:—A gentleman friend and I were sitting at the Ritz last evening and he said that if I took a pencil and a paper and put down all of my thoughts it would make a book . . . So it might have all blown over but this morning he sent a me a book. But when I opened it I saw that it was all a blank. Then I remembered what my gentleman acquaintance said and realized it was a diary.

But it is now the 16th of March and too late to begin with January, but it does not matter as my gentleman friend, Mr. Elisman, was in town practically all the time, and when he is here one day seems the same as the next day.

Mr. Elisman is in the wholesale button profession in Chicago, and he is the gentleman who is known practically all over as Gus Elisman the Button King. And he is the gentleman who is interested in educating me, so of course he is always coming down to New York to see how my brains have improved.

March 20th:—Mr. Elisman gets in tomorrow, for my birthday. So I thought I would have one good time last evening, so I had some literary gentlemen in to spend the evening. I called up Gloria and Dorothy and the gentleman brought their own liquor. So of course the place was a wreck this morning and Heaven knows how long it will take to get the chandelier fixed.

Good Stories YOU CAN USE...

At two o'clock in the morning a customer phoned the president of a large department store.

"This is Mrs. Whatsername. I just couldn't help calling you personally to tell you that the hat I bought in your store last week is simply stunning. I like it so much."

"That's all very nice," growled the president, "but would you mind telling me why you call me at two o'clock in the morning about a hat you purchased last week?"

"Because," she replied sweetly, "your truck has just delivered it."

Those personable page pippins who have replaced boys in the large banks supply Wall Street with some much-needed comic relief. In one of the large downtown banks an officer gave a new page a new \$100 bill to change, naturally expected her back in a moment after a trip to the teller's window.

Several hours went by and a good deal of worrying was done. Finally the charming miss reappeared with the plaintive story that she had tried every shop on Nassau Street and not one was able to change the bill.—*N. Y. Herald Tribune*.

"I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE"

CHARLES A. BEARD
Professor, Historian

A hayseed Democrat was running for governor in Indiana during the depression that followed the panic of 1893. In one of his speeches he was belaboring the Republicans on the tariff, taxes, and bad times when a fellow in the crowd shouted, "Old stuff! What we want to know is about this here panic."

Some members in the crowd tried to shut the questioner up, but the candidate told them to let him alone. "I'll answer his question," he said. "Times are going to get better, or they'll get worse, or they'll stay about the way they are."

March 22nd:—Well, my birthday has come and gone. It seems to me a gentleman who has a friendly interest in educating a girl like Gus Elisman, would want her to have the biggest square-cut diamond in New York. Even Lulu, my maid, thought it was quite small, and she said if she was I she really would do something definite and she said she always believed in the old adage, "Leave them while you're looking good." But he came in at dinner time with really a very, very beautiful bracelet of square-cut diamonds, so I was quite cheered up.

WISECRACKS of the Week

The Nazis underestimated the Reds, the Japs underestimated China, we underestimated the Japs, and, as time goes on, we do so hope someone will underestimate us.—*Detroit News*.

Spring Fever—disinclination of the sap to rise.—*N. Y. Times*, mag.

One thing in favor of the average high school boy's car is that it rattles before it strikes.

Leading women culinary experts are helping to rewrite the Army's cookbook. But each company cook probably will still feed the boys his particular idea of mess.—*Food Industries*.

Funny, if you do anything all-out it leaves you feeling all in.—*Rough Notes*.

An English soldier arrived in Iceland with two ambitions; to shoot a polar bear and make love to an Icelandic maiden. He tried both, with the result that he landed in the hospital. Philosophizing, he declared to visiting companions, "It would have been better if I'd made love to the polar bear and shot the girl."—WILLIAM BAYLES, "London Diary," *The American Mercury*.

